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4 WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

Vol. VI, No. 3

March, 1946

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## IT PAYS TO DE-ENERGIZE HOT LINE

### GEORGIA PREPARES TRAINING COURSE

*(General Public Also Needs Safety Education)*

The Georgia State Department of Education, Vocational Division--Trade and Industrial Service has prepared an REA Training Program Course Outline under the direction of Mr. M. D. Collins, State Superintendent of schools. The material used in the outline is the result of a Job Analysis developed by the Craft Committee. This Committee is composed of members of the Safety and Job Training Advisory Committee, the State Safety and Job Training Supervisor and a staff member of the State Department of Trade and Industrial Education. A complete breakdown was made of the various jobs performed by the line crews to determine the safety factors involved. Careful study revealed that certain instructional units could only be given on the job, others would readily lend themselves to group conference instruction for such occasions as rainy day assignments.

Each Course Outline contains a progress chart listing all of the instructional units to aid in keeping a record of the Safety Training given each employee.

#### *Powerline Safety for Members and Public*

The Craft Committee also revealed the need for educating the general public on principles of safety in connection with power lines. A series of twelve public safety topics has been formulated. V. H. Barfield, Safety Instructor will prepare a brief news article on each topic for insertion in the local newspaper each time he visits a Cooperative. These articles will also be available for the Cooperatives' monthly news letter.

### TRIES TO DO JOB HOT, SUFFERS SEVERE BURNS

A short section of lateral was being sagged in. An A5 was to be installed on a transformer pole. The line could have been de-energized two spans from the transformer pole. The line truck had been parked one quarter mile from the transformer pole along a new line. Material had been left at the transformer pole to install the A5. A lineman took a brace and bit from the truck and went to the transformer pole to make the dead end. He forgot to take his hot stick and rubber gloves to de-energize the line. Rather than go back for them he decided to do the job hot. He started work on the pole and in changing to a higher position while attempting to refasten his safety strap, he made hand contact with some portion of the energized apparatus near the transformer. The resulting electrical shock caused severe burns on both arms, and puncture burns on right calf and left knee.

#### ARE YOU A SAFETY-MINDED FOREMAN?

Familiarize yourself with every hazardous operation or conditions in your department.  
Obtain and maintain good housekeeping.  
Repair, replace, or adjust tools that create accident hazards and keep all guarding in good condition.  
Educate your men to think their job through safely; see that all new employees are properly instructed.  
Maintain discipline by enforcing all rules and regulations that apply to your job operations.  
Analyze and investigate all accidents to discover the unsafe condition or work practice; then apply preventive measures.  
Never forget that a good example is your best safety message. (Reclamation Safety Record)

# THE REA LINEMAN

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Safety for Employees of REA Systems

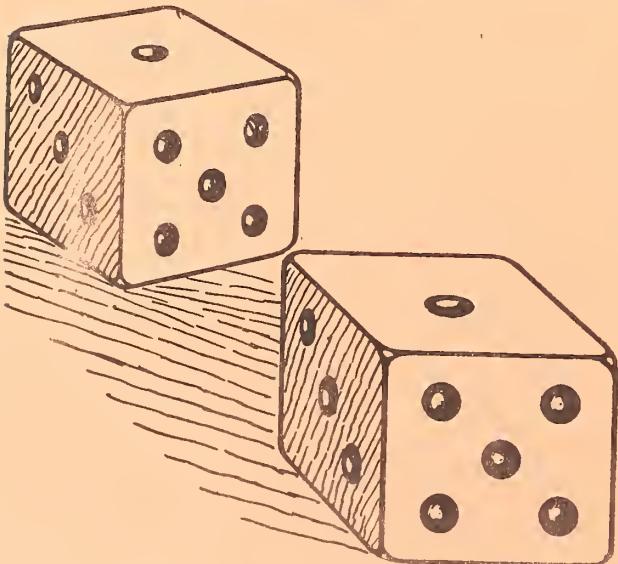
David A. Fleming, Editor

## - EDITORIAL COLUMN -

### DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR LIFE

When we take chances, fail to plan the job, omit the use of protective equipment, or do something which past experience has proved to be hazardous, we run the risk of personal injury. Personal injury may range from an insignificant scratch to a serious disability or even fatal accident. We know all of these things in a general way, but isn't it just human nature to think of these things as something that happens to the other fellow, but never to us.

The science of transmitting and distributing electricity has developed rapidly during the last twenty years. The production of new materials, better construction methods, fine tools and excellent equipment have kept pace with this development and contributed their part to the safety of the men working the lines. It would seem that line work in 1946 should be less hazardous; that there should be less chance of personal injury because the lineman is better equipped to do the job. This is true only insofar as the lineman makes proper use of the tools and equipment at his disposal. Regardless of how fine a pair of rubber gloves may be on the truck,



## THE LINEMAN'S MAIL BAG ARE YOUR BELTS REALLY SAFE

### TO THE REA LINEMAN:

On my last visit to a Coop, I inspected and condemned a belt and safety strap used by a lineman. This equipment was not used during the remainder of my visit but was again used as soon as I left. Two weeks later the lineman fell from a 40 foot pole due to the failure of this equipment. He was not killed in the fall which proves that miracles do happen, but to whom are they guaranteed?

(Signed) A Safety and Job Training Supervisor

For Another Interesting Letter, See  
"It Almost Happened To Me" page 3

### Acknowledgments

The Georgia State Board of Education Vocational Committee wishes to extend its grateful appreciation for the aid and suggestions rendered in the development of the instructional material for the Safety Training Program of REA line workers. The Committee especially commends the following for their interest and active cooperation: Mr. Walter Harrison, President.

(continued on page 4)

they are of no use to the lineman, if he accidentally grabs a hot conductor with his bare hand. Of what use is an 8' hot stick to the man who climbs above the neutral and makes head contact before he uses it?

A study of our accident files is ample proof that personal injury is not the result of failure of tools and protective equipment to do the job for which they were designed; it is not the lack of a suitable work method for doing the job; but rather that the tools and protective equipment were not used at the time of the accident. The prevention of accidents resolves itself into one fundamental problem, that of bringing each workman to the full realization that he and he alone will decide the safety of his job. Line work is not a game of chance, unless we choose to make it so; yet, as with a pair of dice, if we roll them enough times, every possible combination of numbers will eventually be rolled. The lineman who fails to use a protective ground, his rubber gloves or any other protective equipment when required, is rolling the dice. He is faded. Will he come out on a natural or will it be craps?

# OREGON LINE CREW SAVES MAN'S LIFE BY PROMPT ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

A line gang was repairing damage after a storm. The transformer had been changed out. The foreman and a lineman were on the pole completing the installation. The lineman held a lightning arrester and jumper in his left hand preparatory to placing them on the transformer which was located 30 inches below the live conductor. The lineman's rubber gloves and protectors were in the line truck; thus he had no protection when an uncalculated movement of his arm caused the jumper to contact the hot phase wire. The electrical shock caused unconsciousness, severely burned the left hand and arm and also caused flash burns on the face and neck. The line crew immediately lowered the unconscious man to the ground and started artificial respiration by the Schaefer Prone Pressure Method which was successful in restoring breathing and consciousness in a very short time. It was more than an hour before an ambulance and doctor arrived because the ambulance burned out a connecting rod and the doctor had to find other transportation.

## THE EDITOR COMMENTS:

The most effective way to save lives and avoid permanent disability is to prevent ac-

cidents. However, we must not overlook the value of first aid as a method of saving lives. We congratulate Manager John Smith of the Lane County Electric Cooperative, Oakridge, Oregon in having a line crew which knew what to do on the spot, and did just that.

True, the injured man will probably lose his left hand and wrist; but he is alive because his fellow workmen knew the Schaefer Method of Artificial Respiration. They also knew that resuscitation has to be started immediately, to be effective. All electric shock victims cannot be resuscitated.

In some cases the shock causes severe damage to some vital organ or ruptures vessels and no treatment will be effective. In those cases, however, where no serious internal injury is present and the victim is rendered unconscious and breathing has stopped, artificial respiration can be effective if applied immediately. There is not time to summon help or remove the patient to a hospital. For this reason we believe that every cooperative employee should know how to apply artificial respiration and that they should practice to become skilled in its application. Start teaching the new employee the day he reports for work.

## IT ALMOST HAPPENED TO ME

This is the first issue of this new column. Discuss this in your next safety meeting. To aid you we will list references to past articles related to the subject which have appeared in past issues of The Lineman. D. B. Bidle's article "ANALYZE AND INSPECT" which appeared in the September 1945 issue of the REA Lineman will be helpful in discussing this situation.

To the REA Lineman:-

"In the course of our operations, I recently climbed a pole to check on a reported 'flash-over'. The insulator looked intact from the ground, but when I assumed the position at horizontal right angles to it, I found the entire top was broken off.

"Any so-and-so that would deliberately shoot at insulators especially on a REA line

and in an area where I would be called upon to replace it, occupied my thoughts until the replacement had been made. Only then did I wonder why the supreme being had cast his favors in my direction, and caused the primary wire to remain balanced on the damaged insulator until I had climbed the pole to affect the change. If it had become dislodged while I was climbing or descending the pole and chosen to fall opposite the neutral it is quite likely that my relatives would by now be concerned over the disposition of my sugar ration.

"I am reporting this for what it is worth and suggesting that thought be given when climbing poles on energized lines. Why not climb a single phase pole on the neutral sides?"

Yours truly,

A Maintenance Superintendent

# BARB WIRE FOUND ON LINE TRUCK

(THIS IS NO BULL!)

C. L. Heath, Virginia REA, Safety and Job Training Supervisor, inspecting tools and equipment on Harry German's truck, B.A.R.C. Cooperative at Hot Springs, Virginia found a partly used roll of barb wire on the truck. Heath's long association with the industry has prepared him not to be surprised at anything within reason, but barb wire on a line truck was something beyond what he might reasonably expect. This is particularly true since Heath was familiar enough with the conductor situation to know that it is now available and there could be no excuse for sagging in a section of barb wire even in an emergency. A few well directed questions brought out the facts. We quote from Mr. Heath's account of his investigation:

"It seems that Harry had a section of line that developed a habit of kicking out every day almost on the hour. In patrolling and checking, this line it showed signs of being disturbed. Further detective work revealed that a certain bull, Elmer or Ferdinand, made it his business to visit a particular guy every day and indulge in the satisfying act of scratching the places that itched most. When Elmer or Ferdinand really got his heart into this operation, the phase wires just could not be still. A piece of barb wire, attached to the upper guy clamp and strung down the guy with several cross wrappings en-route and attached to the lower clamp cured this trouble. No doubt Elmer's or Ferdinand's pride and possibly his cabcose was hurt by this drastic action, but after all a guy must look out for his guys and that's no bull."

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Georgia Electric Membership Corporation; Mr. W. A. Tankersley, Superintendent, Satilla Rural Electric Membership Corporation; Mr. J. R. Chambliss, Little Ocumulgee Electric Membership Corporation; Mr. D. A. Fleming, REA Labor Relations and Safety Specialist; Mr. A. B. Shehee, REA Safety Engineer and Mr. V. H. Barfield, Travelling Safety Instructor for Georgia.

## SECONDARY VOLTAGES ARE DANGEROUS

Never underestimate the power of secondary voltages. Laymen are sometimes inclined to consider secondary voltages as of no particular danger. REA accident files tell a different story. Marion Rural Electric Co-op warns its members that one lineman and several members received fatal shocks from 120 volt circuits last year, and other linemen have been knocked from the poles and seriously injured by the fall as a result of secondary voltage contact.

## HARD LUCK HARRY

